

Education Committee Hearing
March 3, 2021
SB 948
Terry Starks
54 Burton Street
Hartford, CT 06112

My name is Terry Starks. I'm the founder and CEO of Hartford's Proud Drill Drum and Dance Corp, a paraprofessional at AF Summit, and a lifelong Hartford resident.

When I grew up in Hartford my parents didn't have options of where to send me to school that would be the best fit for me and our family. But AF gives families the option to attend a neighborhood school while getting a quality education.

It takes a village to raise a child and that's why I am writing you this letter. There are several charter school villages in our great state that are counting on the adults in the room to equip them with the tools and resources they need to excel in school and beyond.

Having dedicated teachers that empower and inspire our scholars to recognize their own ability and see a greater future for themselves is not enough. We need this esteemed committee to make sure that all kids are operating on a level playing field.

So I ask that you not only think about the 60 AF scholars who participate in Hartford's Proud, Play by the Rules, after-school program, but the other 800+ scholars that attend AF schools in our great city and the nearly 10,000 across the state.

Please use your power to make sure our kids are funded fairly once and for all. Our babies are worth it!

God Bless,

Terry Starks
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